—New India Assurance Company

Post Offices

Telephone and Telegraph Offices

Railways

Department of Civil Aviation including :

—Air India

—Indian Airlines/Vayudoot

Ministry of Urban Development including :

—Delhi Development Authority

—Central Public Works Department

—Directorate of Estates

—Land and Development Office

Ministry of Surface Transport including :

—Delhi Transport Corporation

—Director General if Shipping

—Port Trust

(c) Persons having grievances against the specific Central Government Departments within the purview of Directorate of Public Grievances have the option of being heard in person by Secretary. Directorote of Public Grievances and/or the concerned officers of the Directorate during working hours on all working days.

Dues to the Family Members of a Deceased Officer Convicted for Fraud

@1309. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the family of an officer of the Central Government who had been sentenced to imprisonment by the Session Court in a criminal case of fraud, who later on files an appeal in High Court, but who dies before the appeal could be heard, is eligible for family pension ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the family of such deceased officer is eligible to get Provident Fund dues, gratuity and death-cum-retirement gratuity ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (e) In the absence of particulars like the nature of penalty awarded to the Government servant on his original conviction or whether the conviction by the Sessions Court was stayed, it is not possible to indicate the benefits admissible to the family.

Construction of Houses for Rural Poor

@1310. SHRI R. T. GOPOLON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allocation made for the Rural Development Department has been slashed ;

(b) if so, the details of the new centrally sponsored programme for construction of houses for the rural poor ; and

(c) the manner in which these new schemes are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There is no cut in the allocation of funds under Centrally Sponsored Rural Development Programmes for the year 1992-93.

(b) and (c) Government have planned to launch a new Centrally-Sponsored Scheme for Rural Housing from the year 1992-93 for the people living below the poverty line in rural areas for providing 'starter' houses with a covered area of 20 sq. mts. The unit cost of construction for a new house has keen kept at Rs. 10,000 and for upgradation of existing dwellings at Rs. 4,000 per unit for 1992-93 with provisions for escalations in later years. It is proposed to be implemented through the State Governments.

Rural Sanitation Programme

1311. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

@ Previously unstarred Question 180, transferred from 5th May, 1992.

@Previously Unstarred Question 46, transferred from the 27th April, 1992.

(a) whether the Rural Sanitation Programme has been revised in recent past;

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated and the details of achievements made in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years both in the revised policy and under the previous policy so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The Central Rural Sanitation Programme was revised in March, 1991.

(b) The amount of funds and the details of achievements made in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last 3 years are as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released	Expenditure reported by the State	Physical achievement
	Previous Policy			
1	1989-90 . . .	—	59.50	7456
	Revised Policy . .			
2	1990-91 . . .	75.00	—*	11409
3	1991-92 . . .	—	—*	10000** (Target)

*The amount has been allocated to the implementing authorities but expenditure has not been reported so far.

**The State Government has informed that the programme is under implementation.

Fluorosis in Gujarat

1312. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 1st April, 1992 regarding more than 25000 people are suffering from an incurable disease 'Fluorosis' in Amreli District of Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that high level of fluoride contents in drinking water is the cause of this dangerous disease making people incapable of doing any work and walking even with the help of walking sticks;

(c) if so, what steps/preventive measures Government have taken so far to check and control the disease and to save the lives of the people;

(d) what alternate drinking water arrangements have been made; and

(e) what financial assistance Central and State Governments have so far given to the victims of this dangerous disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) 36 villages had excess fluoride in drinking water. These villages were in Lathi (13 villages) and Lilia (23 villages). Defluoridation through chemicals (Alum) was started as an immediate relief in about 10 villages. Free chemicals and supervision was provided by the State Government of Gujarat. Help of two voluntary agencies was also sought for health education to the users. The other affected villages were also given health education about the hazards and preventive measures. A regional water supply scheme covering these villages was commenced in February 1988 through a river dam (Kalubhar). 26 villages